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OEO Grant Asked for Newspaper

Neighborhood Weekly Planned In Cardozo Area

By Nancy Moran
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The University Neighborhoods Council has asked the Office of Economic Opportunity for a \$150,000 demonstration grant to start a weekly 5-cent newspaper in the Cardozo area.

As now conceived, the paper would be an eight-page tabloid staffed entirely by Cardozo residents. William Hobbs, the 23-year-old whose idea it is, said yesterday it would be a self-supporting non-profit community enterprise.

The Council sent a preliminary request to the Federal antipoverty agency six months ago. Its final request, for at least \$150,000 to finance the first few issues, will be submitted this week.

Hobbs said he hopes to start publishing within four months, which is the time he thinks it will take to have the request approved.

University Neighborhoods Council is asking for the funds directly, rather than through the United Planning Organization, the District's anti-

poverty agency through which Federal antipoverty funds normally come.

Hobbs said the reason is that the newspaper would be only a demonstration project and could be funded faster directly.

9-Man Board Planned

Although the Federal money would go to the University Neighborhoods Council, Hobbs said the intention is to turn over control within a year to a nine-man editorial board with three appointed members and six chosen in special community elections.

Hobbs said the tabloid would cover the community in detail, from "the latest eviction" to where to get advice on legal problems or birth control.

Hobbs said the paper would serve as a training ground for young Negro journalists.

He has already sounded out publishers and officials of the Newspaper Guild, he said. He added that he hopes to form an advisory board of professors, reporters, publishers and advertisers.

Hobbs, a former George Washington University student, was hired by the Council last April to organize the paper. He formerly edited three small suburban weeklies for the Fairfax Publishing Co. and organized a community paper in Gum Springs, Va.

Besides its news and editorial peaks, the paper, aimed at more than 50,000 people, would offer several regular columns and features, Hobbs said. A column written in Spanish would serve the heavy Latin population in the north Cardozo area. Another column, written in third-grade English, would be aimed at promoting literacy.